m hand between the King and the Leaguers, being necessary and grateful to the towns, and their great hmdiance being removed by the King's coming within the Catholic Church, so that it is likely that they will embrace the peace upon easier conditions

iqth August SIR THOMAS WILKES' CONVERSATION WITH THE FRENCH KING

From St Denis near Pans, Sir Thomas Wilkes writeth that he arrived there on the nth of the month, finding the King about to depart on the next morning for Fontainebleau , who granted him a brief audience He piesented the Queen's letters of credence, which the King opened but did not read at that time, alleging the difficulty of the hand Then the King of his own accord fell into a slight discourse of the reasons of his conversion, promising at the next audience to detail it at large To which Sir Thomas answered little more than to signify how strange it would appear to the Queen that of so resolute and long continued a Protestant he should so suddenly become a Catholic

The ambassador saith that the King by his action hath assured his Catholics that were declining from him, and by breaking the neck of the third party hath doubtless gotten a strong party the poverty of the Dukes of Mayne and Guise, the not performing of the promises of the Pope and the King of Spain, the uncertainty o£ the people of their faction, who all Desire a peace, and the general misery of the country which is pitiful to behold, will drive them all to end their present dissensions

und August THE FORTIFICATIONS OF PLYMOUTH

The fortification of Plymouth, which had been in good forwardness, is now slacked because very few of

the gentlemen of Devon, except the Earl of Bath, who hath given *£100,* contribute anything at all

DISBANDMENT OF THE SOLDIERS FROM FRANCE

Sir John Hawkins prepareth seven hoys to bring 700 or 800 men from Dieppe Sir Edward Brook and the muster master are to ascertain and record how many men there are in every company, how armed and weaponed, and from what counties they were sent* The treasurer's deputy shall give every soldier